Benefits of private sector telecom companies

†2149. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those private sector telecom companies for which a congenial atmosphere as created and benefits extended by the previous Government;

(b) the loss suffered by the country as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The telecommunication sector was opened for private sector participation in 1992 with Cellular Services in four metro towns. The National Telecom Policy-1994 further opened the service sector for Basic and Cellular Services in whole country for private participation. The policy review is a continuous process in this sector and accordingly New Telecom Policy was announced in 1999 and further addendum was issued in 2003. The policy is implemented by various services providers with a view to provide affordable communication facilities to the people.

The increase in the tele-density from 2.33 in 1999 to 11.32 in December, 2005 demonstrates the result of such policies.

Use of mobile switching centres by mobility service providers

2150. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority has kept limited mobility and cellular mobility as distinct entities;

(b) if so, whether it has specifically disallowed mobility service providers using mobile switching centres;

(c) if so, whether Reliance Infocom launched Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) with the capability of full mobility cellular service, even though it had not secured the license, after the year 2001;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.